

# The Critic

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### Literature

Melbourne, Peel, Hastings \*

THE NEW Life of Lord Melbourne (1) is written in an attractive style, and gives perhaps the best general idea of his versatile character that has ever been attempted. We find, first, an account of the Melbourne ancestry, a history of the houses of Coke and Lamb, from which he sprang, and then a sketch of Sir Peniston Lamb, first Viscount Melbourne. William Lamb, the future Prime Minister, was educated at Eton and Cambridge, and after some hesitation finally decided for the law. The death of his elder brother made him an eldest son—a son much beloved by his mother, but, if not an object of dislike, certainly one of indifference, to his father. His career is, perhaps, too familiar to make it necessary to enter into any special details, but the course of his married life, which is here quite fully portrayed, discovers to the reader a clue to many of his peculiarities and eccentricities. Briefly, he fell desperately in love with and married Lady Caroline Ponsonby, a niece of the famous and beautiful Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. Lady Caroline was a person of what may be called eccentricity. 'The whole of her life was composed of a series of episodes in which love, or what passed for it, played a leading part. Lamb had the honor, perhaps the ill-fortune, of becoming the hero of one of these episodes, but unluckily it was only the first of the series, if, indeed, it was the first. In her passion for him there may have been some undercurrent of permanency. We find it welling up to the surface by fits and starts, and apparently surviving all other attachments, but the long interval between the beginning and end was infinitely chequered. . . . She dallied with momentary rushes of feeling, which, however, were intellectual rather than emotional, and were not so much impulses as whims. . . . It has been said that she and her husband were an ill-assorted couple, and the remark is so obvious that it must be true, though it does not cover all the facts.'

Lord Byron and Lord Lytton were among the number of her adorers, and her fancy rested for a time upon them both. Byron deserted her and she burnt him, in revenge, in effigy, and then sent him an account of the performance. These vagaries, to call them by no harsher name, at length compelled a separation, and in 1824 Lady Caroline took up her residence at Brocket, while her husband divided his time between the Melbourne houses at Whitehall and in Derbyshire. In December, 1825, she seemed to have realized her obligations to her husband, and her love for him is expressed in the sad verses upon page 87. Shortly after this time she died, and her last thoughts were of him.

Turning from this domestic tragedy, which is really the most fascinating part of the volume before us, we find a full and interesting account of Melbourne's interest in and influence over the young Queen. Though not a great statesman, he was a genial and lovable man, and yet on occasion,

\* 1. Viscount Melbourne. By Henry Dunckley. 2. Sir Robert Peel. By Justin McCarthy. 3. each. (The Queen's Prime Ministers.) Harper & Bros. 3. Warren Hastings. By Capt. L. J. Trotter. 60 cts. (Rulers of India.) Macmillan & Co.

as in the case of his famous letter to Brougham, he could display a straightforwardness and plainness of diction which might be envied by a Bismarck. All in all, this volume is exceedingly interesting and written in a fascinating style.

A Life of Peel (2) was, of course, necessary in a series of the Queen's Prime Ministers; but, after the excellent volume of Mr. F. C. Montague, published in 1889, Mr. McCarthy's book seems a bit superfluous. A notice of the first-mentioned volume appeared in *The Critic* of April 13, 1889. Mr. McCarthy's book, though written in a more attractive style—a style of which he is a master—follows the same general plan. The character of Sir Robert Peel is viewed from the same standpoint, and, from the same party standpoint, his action as regards both Catholic Reform and the Corn Laws is weighed and estimated. Of the two volumes the later one is perhaps the more readable, for Mr. McCarthy knows how to present things in an attractive light, and how to carry the reader with him. It may be added that the type and arrangement of the present volume under discussion are much to be preferred.

It is only a short time since a notice of Sir Alfred Lyall's Life of Hastings appeared in *The Critic*. We now have another biography of him, written by Capt. L. J. Trotter and published in the series of Rulers of India. The last author has had the opportunity of examining the newly published folio volumes, Letters, Despatches and other State Papers preserved in the Foreign Department of the Government of India, 1772-85. The period covers the entire rule of Warren Hastings. The inference one draws from the preface is that Capt. Trotter has relied almost entirely upon these newly-published sources, or, if this is too strong a statement, that he has incorporated much new material from them in his book. A hasty examination of the footnotes (which, by the way, the total absence of page and number of volume makes practically useless) shows *fifty-one* references to Gleig, *thirty-one* to Auber, and *thirty* to the new volumes edited by Mr. Forrest. Without the new sources for purposes of comparison, it would be unfair to pronounce it no more accurate than other Lives of Hastings; but really there does not seem to be anything that strikes the reader as especially new or unheard-of. We are inclined to think (perhaps unfairly) that the newly-published Despatches have contributed much less to this volume than the works of earlier biographers. One thing may with justice be said of this new series—*vis.*, that while sold at the same price per volume as the other Macmillan series of biography (English Statesmen and English Men of Action), it is far more attractive in appearance, and the numbers are easier to read. The print is better, the paragraphing better, and the monotony of close lines and solid print that tires one in the 'Red' series is happily absent in this.

### Reid's Life of Lord Houghton \*

AFTER READING these delightful volumes, one appreciates Thackeray's remark that 'Fryston [Lord Houghton's country seat] combines all the graces of the château and the tavern.' The catalogue of guests who at one time or another sat at Lord Houghton's hospitable board reads more like the register of a hotel than a gentleman's visiting list. It was literally true of Monckton Milnes that 'he dined with Louis Philippe and gave dinners to Louis Blanc,' as Disraeli said of his Mr. Vavasour. Indeed, the lively portrait given in 'Tancred' is scarcely exaggerated. 'Mr. Vavasour was a social favorite, a poet, and a real poet, quite a troubadour, as well as a member of Parliament; travelled, sweet-tempered and good-hearted, very amusing and very clever. With catholic sympathies and an eclectic turn of mind, Mr. Vavasour saw something good in everybody and everything, which is certainly amiable, and perhaps just, but disqualifies a man in some degree for the business of life,

\* Life, Letters and Friendships of Richard Monckton Milnes, first Lord Houghton. By T. Wemyss Reid. 2 vols. 85. Cassell Publishing Co.

which requires for its conduct a certain degree of prejudice. Mr. Vavasour's breakfasts were renowned. Whatever your creed, class or merit—one might almost add, your character—you were a welcome guest at his matutinal meal, provided you were celebrated. That qualification, however, was rigidly enforced. Individuals met at his hospitable house who had never met before, but who for years had been cherishing in solitude mutual detestation with all the irritable exaggeration of the literary character. . . . His life was a gyration of energetic curiosity, an insatiable whirl of social celebrity.' Carlyle's description of him adds a graphic touch or two. 'A most bland-smiling, semi-quizzical, affectionate, high-bred, Italianized little man, who has long olive-blond hair, a dimple, next to no chin, and flings his arm round your neck when he addresses you in public society.' And here is W. E. Forster's first impression of the man:— 'A pleasant, companionable little man, well fed and fattening, with some small remnant of poetry in his eyes and nowhere else; delighting in paradoxes, but good-humored ones; defending all manner of people and principles, in order to provoke Carlyle to abuse them, in which laudable enterprise he must have succeeded to his heart's content, and for a time we had a most amusing evening, reminding me of a naughty boy rubbing a fierce cat's tail backwards and getting in between furious growls and fiery sparks. He managed to avoid the threatened scratches.'

Lord Houghton was disappointed at the qualified success of his political career. Peel, under whose banners he enlisted as a young man, neglected to advance him; and when at last he was offered a post under Lord Palmerston, he thought himself too old to accept it. A certain whimsicality which he affected undoubtedly injured his political chances; nor was he zealous enough to suit the thick-and-thin partisans of either faction. Speaking to his constituents at the time of his elevation to the peerage, he said:— 'I remember Sir Thomas Freemantle, our whipper-in in the House of Commons, coming to me and saying, "Now, do try for once in your life to make a speech in which you are not going to be candid." ' Carlyle told him:— 'Peel knows what he is about; there is only one post fit for you, and that is the office of perpetual president of the Heaven and Hell Amalgamation Society.' Yet his efforts in the political field were by no means barren, and his name is honorably associated with various useful and philanthropic measures.

Contemporary taste seems to have preferred the early poems of Milnes to those of Tennyson. There was a vein of genuine poetry in his nature, and his literary touch was graceful and persuasive. In later life, however, he recommended metrical composition as a valuable aid in forming a writer's prose style. Such a view is hardly compatible with the possession of great poetic powers. Milnes's own prose writings, chiefly pamphlets and reviews dealing with subjects of current interest, appear to have had considerable influence on public opinion, especially his 'One Tract More,' published in the heat of the Tractarian controversy. He was always conciliatory and cosmopolitan in tendency, a real peacemaker in the wordy strife.

There is no question, however, as to the extraordinary social success he achieved. The wide range of his acquaintance, the esteem in which he was held by persons of every class, every temperament, every shade of opinion, would indicate his possession of qualities that appealed to universal human nature. From many sources we have testimony to the winning charm of his personality. His tact compelled even Carlyle's admiration: 'Richard had to exert himself; but he is really dexterous, the villain. He pricks you with questions, with remarks, with all kinds of fly tackle to make you bite—does generally contrive to get you into some sort of speech, and then his good humor is extreme; you look in his face and forgive him all his tricks.' Milnes was a witty and accomplished talker, and the whimsicality we have noticed undoubtedly flavored his utterances with a piquancy

only too rare in English conversation. Indeed, what with his love of hospitality and his fame as an after-dinner speaker, his social engagements became so numerous that the steady application which the pursuit of literature demands was for him an impossibility. In one important respect Disraeli's description of Mr. Vavasour does Milnes an injustice. Merit, not celebrity, was the passport to his favor. He found a sincere pleasure in bestowing aid and advice upon young and struggling authors, and Mr. Reid's pages record many an example of his disinterested kindness. He befriended the young Scottish poet, David Gray; he introduced Emerson to the English public; and for the service he rendered Alfred Tennyson, in procuring for him a pension which left him free to follow the bent of his genius, the whole English-speaking world is his debtor. To Americans Lord Houghton was invariably courteous, and many of our countrymen were among his warmest friends.

Most interesting are the letters from Carlyle, De Tocqueville, Gladstone and others, which are plentifully scattered throughout the work. Lord Houghton's correspondents were clearly much attached to him, and in these letters one sees them at their best. Of anecdotes and *bons mots* there is no lack, and many a sidelight is thrown in these pleasant pages on the personages of Lord Houghton's day. The taste and discretion which Mr. Reid has exercised have made his book a model for all biographers.

#### Jameson's Story of the Rear Column \*

TO THOSE not yet weary of following the long trail in literature, which, measured by book-lengths, would probably equal the marches and countermarches of the Emin Pasha relief expedition made in Africa, this book will come both as part of evidence in the case, and as a true picture of life in the Dark Continent. Indeed, it is so true, being informal, and made without the thought of publication, as to partake of the horrible. One does not feel especially proud of his race, when reading either about the ebony images of God, or those who represent Him with a white skin. Whether one reads of Africans eating a fat black girl, stuffed with bananas and well roasted, very much as our gourmets enjoy Chesapeake Bay canvas-backs stuffed with chestnuts, or learns how white bullies handle Africans, the sensation of disgust frequently rises. The picture of Stanley is not flattering; but when we examine into Mr. Jameson's own treatment of the blacks, it is the same old story of the English bully all over the world. The club and the black man's back, the stick and the 'nigger' which one sees or reads about in all the world outside of the white continents, are here photographed on many a page. He writes:— 'I found my boy Mufta, whom I was really beginning to trust, had been stealing my salt, so I had to recur to the only method to make a nigger honest, and gave him fifty well-applied strokes.' This entry, on page 158, is one specimen in a long schedule. The letters of Jameson to his wife in the camp at Yambuya show clearly the causes of delay, some of them apparently insurmountable, and predict the blame which will follow. The book is edited by the widow of the unfortunate naturalist, and she contents herself with adding terse notes that tell their own story. To one in which Stanley charges Barttelot, Ward, Troup and Jameson with being 'madmen,' 'demented,' 'idiot,' etc., she adds:— 'Jameson never received this letter; it arrived after his death, and was sent home. . . . Comment . . . would be superfluous.' The diary is full of a great variety of information as to human and animal life in Africa, and with indications of a vigorous, capable and unflinching personality. The long and interesting preface and introduction are by the brother, and various competent specialists have added papers on natural history. There are also striking illustrations by C. Whymper, a good map, a portrait, and the other accessories of good book-making. It is quite evident

\* The Story of the Rear Column of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition. By the late James S. Jameson. \$3.50. United States Book Co.



that the literature of the Emin Pasha relief expedition is not complete without this volume, while to our knowledge of Africa it is a contribution of definite value.

#### Gail Hamilton's Bible Class \*

IN GAIL HAMILTON'S latest book, 'A Washington Bible Class,' we have the record of a cosmopolitan company of people in the Capital of the United States who have met to enjoy converse on religious themes. The brilliant author, whose weakness—for it is certainly no sign of strength or beauty—is the flippant and often absurd use of Scripture as slang, tells us all about the formation of the Bible class in her introduction. Pretty soon the air is thick with the (misspelled) names of Dutch and German critics (Kæueu and Wellhauser, p. 9) and with talk of 'higher criticism,' 'Andover,' 'analysis,' 'King James's Bible,' 'Tel-el-Amarna tablets,' and 'President White.' In a word, a company of free and independent Americans, most of whom get their opinions out of the current periodicals of the day, have met together to decide upon the merits of the Bible. It is the self-imposed and congenial task of the author to arrange these Bible talks in condensed and shapely form, and she has done her work well. Fond of theological discussion, she is equally fond of sharing her opinions and conclusions with the whole world. The talks have for their subject the real Genesis, the King of Salem, the institutes of Moses, the origin of sacrifice, the New Testament solvent of the Old Testament sacrifices, the election of Paul and the election of presbytery, spiritual heat considered as a mode of motion, the sectarian argument, inspiration, oneness with Christ, and miracles. It must be confessed, after reading the brilliant record of the Washington Bible class, that its scholars wander as far away from the strict line of the lesson, as the average Sunday-school lad and lass. The chat, however, is interesting, with its flotsam and jetsam of biography, science, science gossip, and abundant use of nineteenth-century reason applied to revelation, narratives of the Andover heresy trial, and references to Prof. W. R. Harper's lectures. We suspect that most of the bright ideas in the final 'recension' of the talks which now appears in book form is the work of a 'redactor' named Gail Hamilton, and that the higher criticism could 'dissect out' most of this author's writing, however 'refractory' certain smaller portions might prove to be to the critic. There are several papers suggestive and interesting on the various forms of Church life, the episcopal or liturgical and the congregational or democratic being especially well discussed. The book is like a good newspaper—rich in fragments and suggestive hints of great subjects. It will attract hundreds where profound discussion draws only units and tens.

#### Hamley's "War in the Crimea" \*

WE KNOW of no book of convenient size which is so good a short history of the Crimean War as Gen. Sir E. Hamley's. The length of Mr. Kinglake's admirable and exhaustive work is sufficient to discourage readers who have little time, but this volume contains enough to enable all to form a clear conception of the causes, the campaigns and the results of the struggle. Russophobia, if it may be so called without offense, is so widespread in England that it is not wonderful Gen. Hamley should attribute to the Emperor Nicholas the worst motives possible—'so grasping, so unscrupulous, so vindictive a personality.' There is something to be said upon the other side; grasping, unscrupulous, possibly vindictive, but were not these characteristics to be found among others of the contending powers? The author's defence of Napoleon III. is scarcely consistent with the truth, and the Prince Consort's testimony as quoted is simply the opinion of the Prince Consort. The French Emperor wished to avenge his great uncle, and, says Müller, 'notwithstanding the scruples of Lord Aberdeen, he dragged

the English Cabinet along with him.' The French army was far superior to the English, and much better cared for; the Turks were, if anything, better soldiers than either; the Italians came at a critical moment. These four nations shattered Sebastopol after months of unsuccessful assaults, but they made little lasting impression upon the Russian Colossus. Men and reputations withered away before the shameless inefficiency of the English War and Admiralty Office. Balaklava, glorious as it was, was the fruit of a blunder, and remains a splendid monument to stupidity. The conduct of the war upon the part of England was marked by the most sluggish neglect, until the sufferings of the brave soldiers in the trenches and on the cold shores of the Crimea raised the indignation of the English people.

Though we may not agree with every opinion advanced by Gen. Hamley, he has written a book which can be fully recommended to anyone who wishes to become familiar with the great facts of the Crimean War. Portraits of Lord Raglan, Gen. Todleben and the Emperor Nicholas adorn the volume, and numerous plans give vividness to the battles.

#### Taylor's "Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries" \*

FLOWERS from which the perfumes have fled, fires from which the heat has faded—such are the ancient and overthrown superstitions and mythologies of the world. Once they were alive, fragrant, vitalizing, full of sap and sense, living faiths that quickened millions and to which millions threw out their souls like tendrils: now they are dead, dark, and unintelligible, shells on the beach from which the vital creature has emerged leaving only a bit of rainbow ruin behind.

The Bacchic and Eleusinian Mysteries are no exception to the law of extinction. These shells, once so brimming with light and oil and substance, from which all Hellas lit its spiritual torches and which even Socrates revered in his last hour, lie there in the books, empty and obscure, fragmentary and vaguely symbolic, flotsam and jetsam tossed about by the perpetual currents of human change and now cast up on the shelves of antiquaries like wrecks on the shore, difficult, nay, impossible, to be understood. One of the Catos stabbed himself after reading Plato on the immortality of the soul: one might well follow so august a suicide after reading Taylor on the Eleusinia. The scholarship of the treatise, like the mysteries themselves, has become obsolete. His efforts to put together meanings and texts, interpretations and verbal tangles, and twist from them a skein of intelligible meaning, are like the efforts to reconstruct some puzzle to which the key is lost, to traverse some Minotaur-labyrinth to which there is no clue, to reproduce some brilliant glaze, the lost and last delight of ancient Chinese ingenuity.

Mr. Taylor's book, of which this is a fourth edition, was in its day and generation, now long past, a mosaic of scraps skilfully put together by one who had delved in Plato all his life and drunk the very honey from his lips, and who would explain the Mysteries of Eleusis by the speculations and esoteric meanings of the Platonic philosophy. The essay contained (and contains) many absurd references to MS. sources possessed by the essayist and by no one else, through which many marvellous inner doors to the sanctuary could be unlocked: dark hints, mysterious suggestions of 'arcane' knowledge possessed by the author in solitary state. All this appears amusing enough in an era of daylight, and leads one to think that the most valuable part of the essay is the illustrations drawn from vases and museums, and figuring the beautiful myths of Demeter and Proserpina, the Orgies of Dionysos, bacchantes, fauns, and torch-bearers. These are pictorially charming, but we understand their real meaning about as clearly as a Greek of Pericles would understand a 'Crucifixion' of Rubens or a 'Mater Dolorosa' of Guido.

\* A Washington Bible Class. By Gail Hamilton. \$1.50. D. Appleton & Co.  
\* The War in the Crimea. By Sir E. Hamley. \$1.75. Scribner & Welford.

\* Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries. By Thomas Taylor. Ed. by Alexander Wilder, M.D. With 85 illustrations by A. L. Rawton. (Archaic Library.) J. W. Bouton.

### Some Recent Books on Hygiene\*

THE first edition of Dr. George Rohé's 'Text-Book of Hygiene' had quick and just acknowledgment of its proper place among works on sanitary science. The second edition (1) has been largely recast; several chapters have been rewritten, all have been revised, many and valuable additions have been made, and it represents preventive medicine up to date. As a comprehensive, reliable and judicial treatise on public and private hygiene—the art of preserving health,—it may be unreservedly commended. It is especially adapted to the needs of the American physician, and of the sanitary officers of our cities and towns. The author deals, so far as possible, with facts, and shuns fancies—the bane of so many late books. He aims to give the true (which is not always the latest) word; of doubtful points he speaks with care and fairness.

The best methods of treatment of the sewage of farm and country houses, suburban dwellings, and those in small towns, and in hospitals, hotels, colleges, etc., together with the removal and stowage of solid house refuse, as garbage, ashes, etc., are well written about by William Paul Gerhard (2) in the volume he contributes to the Van Nostrand Science Series. It is compact and clear, largely free from technical terms, and the descriptions and comparisons of the various methods and systems are given with intelligence and fairness. Householders may read and digest it with profit.

Dr. Bissell's 'Household Hygiene' (3) is written for women, and those who may read it will find the principles of sanitary house-keeping set forth in plain language, and with discretion and soundness. There is much of value in little space, and the chapter on 'Kitchen and Table Hygiene' may be especially recommended.

Of the many books lately published intending to teach the outlines of anatomy and physiology to young persons, Dr. D. F. Lincoln's 'Hygienic Physiology' (4) is among the best. It goes further than most works on the subject, for besides sufficient treatment of structure and function, there are many excellent hygienic suggestions of direct practical use. This is particularly so in the chapter on 'Food, Drink and Digestion.' Though the book is intended for pupils from twelve to fifteen years of age, it may be read and studied by children of a larger growth.

Some years since one of the most eminent surgeons of the time, Prof. Billroth of Vienna, wrote a text-book on sick-nursing (5). Late editions have been revised by competent hands under his eye, and a good translation of the last one has been done, 'by special authority,' by Mr. J. Bentall Endean. It is hardly the book for pupils during an apprenticeship in a training-school, but to the professional sick-nurse, of fair intelligence—and Dr. Billroth insists that women of small intellectual capacity are not fitted for nurses and should be dissuaded from the calling—and some practical experience, it will be found, in many ways, a useful aid.

An excellent authorized translation of Prof. Uffelmann's 'Domestic Hygiene of Children' (6), edited by Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi, has given to the American physician, student, sanitary officials, teacher and parent an opportunity to become acquainted with a well-known and highly valued book. Its great reputation is fully deserved. There is no other work on the subject which treats so comprehensively, and yet compactly, of infantile hygiene. The arrangement is good, and the style simple and clear. It should find ready and appreciative acceptance by both the medical profession and the laity.

'Health for Little Folks' (7) is intended for pupils of primary grades, and care is taken to say no more than can be understood by very young children.

Homely suggestions to mothers and daughters for the four stages in the round of woman's life are made by Dr. W. M. Capp in 'The Daughter' (8). Its aim is to enable the mother to second intelligently the medical adviser when he comes professionally into the family, and to offer some practical considerations affecting woman in her family relation.

'The idol of to-day is muscle. The multitude worships a great biceps. The Israelites bowed down before a calf of gold; to-day it is a calf of flesh that receives the homage of the public. . . . A prize-fight eclipses even a scandal.' Thus writes Mr. C. Wadsworth, in 'How to Get Muscular' (9). While the author is in hearty sympathy with the prevailing spirit of athletics, he sees its limita-

tions, and warns against 'athletics gone mad.' There is good sense in many of his suggestions.

In general, good physiology and much commonsense are to be found in 'Power through Repose' (10). It is a warning against over-strain and neglected rest, an attempt to show how 'this strain in all things,' which inevitably leads to disastrous results, may be abandoned by a regular process of training, and how we can 'climb back to an ordinary life, step by step.' 'Nervous disorders, resulting from over-work, are all about us. . . . Extreme nervous tension seem to be peculiarly American'; and all this comes from the misuse of our nervous forces. The remedy the author teaches lies within ourselves, and it is chiefly 'to make a peaceful state possible through a normal training of physique; to realize and follow a wholesome life in all its phases.

The lay-reader, to whom it is addressed, will find much information on a variety of subjects that he will do right to know about in Dr. Shoemaker's 'Heredity, Health, and Personal Beauty' (11). If there is copiousness of treatment, and some redundancy and occasional efflorescence of style, it is on the whole bright and readable. The range is large—from well considered chapters on the 'Law of Life and Growth,' 'Man's Spiritual Place in Nature,' 'Man's Physical Place in Nature,' 'The Phenomena of Evolution,' 'The Source of the Beauty of the Fair Sex,' 'The Art of Walking,' 'The Evolution of the American Girl,' to the cosmetic care of face, hand, feet, nails, hair, etc., 'Household Remedies,' and 'List of Medicated Soaps.'

### Recent Fiction

EMILE ZOLA's latest novel, 'Money,' is, as its name implies, a record of the effect produced upon the human race by its greed for gold. Certain capitalists, men who have spent their lives in speculative ventures on the Bourse, start a Universal Bank, in connection with which there is to be a steamship company that shall circumnavigate and a network of railroads that shall traverse the globe. At first the scheme succeeds brilliantly, then comes the inevitable crash, and with it the crush of the small, the trampling crowd which follows large armies, passion descending from the parlor to the kitchen, from the bourgeois to the workman and the peasant, and which hurled into this mad gallop of millions subscribers having but two or three shares, the whole emaciated and hungry mass of tiny capitalists which a catastrophe such as this sweeps away like an epidemic and lays at rest in the paupers' grave. The originators of the scheme, those who have been the cause of all this, are pursued by the endless wail arising from the frightful anguish produced by this tragedy of money. In its study of the subject, which it is the purpose of this novel of Zola's to treat, it is truly great. The descriptions of the scenes on the Bourse, the development of the character of the man who is the mainspring of this mad speculation, the horde of parasites who cling to him in their overpowering greed until he goes down and then desert him, are certainly marvellous in their realism. It is a masterly work, unnecessarily revolting at times in some of its details, nevertheless a book in which a difficult subject is handled with the utmost skill and which sustains the most unflinching interest to its last page. Some passages in the volume have been rendered too literally, but on the whole the translation is quite good. (\$1.50. Benjamin R. Tucker.)

'MME. D'ORGEVAUT'S HUSBAND,' by Henry Rabusson, treats a very serious problem in a most striking and interesting manner—the problem as to whether a woman can be married to a man and continue to love him and be happy with him when she has ceased to respect him. Mme. D'Orgevaute's second husband tells her, a few hours after their marriage, that he has been a dishonest man and has used his employer's money for his own purposes, but that he was successful in his gambling, has replaced the money, and has lived an honest life ever since. She loves him, and for the moment, overcome by her feeling for him, she forgives him and permits him to remain with her. There is a certain charm at first in the sacrifice she imposes upon herself for his sake, but this does not last. It is not forgetfulness; it is a slow familiarization with a new kind of happiness, a progressive initiation into the art of being happy through the denumbing of the faculties which can make one suffer. It is the voluntary torpor of a woman who does not wish to know whether it was wrong to love first and to condone afterwards. She does not blind herself; she goes to sleep. There are, unfortunately, awakenings and sleeplessness. Madame first knows the latter by short attacks, of which she hopes to be cured; but it is not long before she also knows the other, of which one is never cured—the great awakening. Her husband's error—which is inevitable and fatally common to all those who accept a rehabilitation—is to become used too quick to the climate of indulgent

\* 1. Text-Book of Hygiene. From an American standpoint. By Geo. H. Rohé, M.D. \$2.50. F. A. Davis. 2. The Disposal of Household Wastes. By Wm. Paul Gerhard, C.E. 30 cts. D. Van Nostrand Co. 3. Household Hygiene. By Mary Taylor Bissell, M.D. 75 cts. N. D. C. Hodges. 4. Hygienic Physiology. For the use of schools. By D. F. Lincoln, M.D. 50 cts. Ginn & Co. 5. The Care of the Sick at Home and in the Hospital. By Dr. Th. Billroth. Trans. by J. B. Endean. \$2. Chas. Scribner's Sons. 6. Manual of the Domestic Hygiene of the Child. By Julius Uffelmann, M.D. \$1.75. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 7. Health for Little Folks. 30 cts. American Book Co. 8. The Daughter: Her Health, Education and Wedlock. By W. M. Capp, M.D. \$1. F. A. Davis. 9. How to get Muscular. Five Addresses on Higher Athletics. By Charles Wadsworth, Jr. 35 cts. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. 10. Power Through Repose. By Annie Payson Call. \$1. Roberts Bros. 11. Heredity, Health and Personal Beauty. By John V. Shoemaker, M.D. F. A. Davis.



silence and forced abnegation which surrounds him. The situation becomes intolerable. The wife tells him that the guilty person who is really worthy of being rehabilitated comprehends that there is no rehabilitation possible, save in a solitude courageously and voluntarily borne; he understands that there will always be in his conscience and in the memory of others, in that of the being he loves, something which would protest against this pardon. She can stand the life in close companionship with him no longer, and they separate. The story thus draws to a perfectly logical conclusion in its treatment of a moral question which men and women are being called upon to face every day. The translation is by Frank H. Potter. (\$1. Dodd, Mead & Co.)

THE EVENTS related in 'Iermola' take place in Volhynian Poland, that faraway corner of the earth where the modesty, simplicity and poverty of past ages are preserved. Iermola is an old man thrown out of service by his master's death and living all alone in his peasant's hut until one night when a baby is left at his door by some one wishing to get rid of it. He rears the child as his, teaching him his trade and taking great delight in him. His happiness is destroyed at last by the parents of the child, who establish their claim to him and take him away from his foster-father. At first they allow Iermola to come and see the child regularly, but they soon tire of him and forbid him to come any more. The boy, bred to a tough, hardy peasant's life, pines for his freedom and for the devotion which Iermola lavished upon him. Finally, unable to bear the separation any longer, he runs away from home, joins the old man, and the two flee through the forest together. The boy has been ill, however, and is unable to cope with the hardships they endure. As they reach the village on the far side of the forest he falls ill and dies in Iermola's arms. The story is by Joseph Ignatius Kraszewski, the Pole, whose first novel, 'The Jew,' brought him into notice some little time ago. It has an intensely local flavor, but is the more interesting on that account. There is a certain amount of homely pathos in it which is very appealing, and the character of Iermola is a most lovable one. (\$1. Dodd, Mead & Co.)

THE THIRD ISSUE in the Unknown Library consists of two stories, 'A Mystery of the Campagna' and 'A Shadow on a Wave,' by Von Degen. In the first of these an artist in Rome parts unwillingly from his friend who insists on going alone to make his home in an old villa in the Campagna. Nothing more is heard from him, and the artist becomes ill with anxiety on his account. In his delirium he raves so constantly of the danger his friend is in that the men around him are at last impressed by it and impelled to go and find what the fate of the man has been. They discover his dead body lying on the floor of an old vault and by his side a sarcophagus upon which they read the Greek inscription, 'To Vespertilia—the blood drinker, the Vampire Woman,' and they know this creature has been the cause of Marcello's death. The second story in this little volume is an artist's tale of modern Venice, and is, literally speaking, a shadow on a wave. This man is married to a woman who loves him in her way and who means well but who does not understand him at all. She remains in Paris absorbed in the frivolities of life and lets him go alone to Venice to paint. While floating about in his gondola in search of subjects for his pictures, he sees a face at a window that he adores from the moment he lays eyes on it. He lives for it from that time forth, catching glimpses of it now and then, coming in contact with its owner only twice. At last his wife arrives and he is packing his sketches to leave Venice when he hears his shadow has died and that they said she died of a broken heart. These stories are both interesting, both well-written. The first is weird and terrible, with an element of the supernatural in it; the second has the nameless charm that enters into any description of life on the Venetian waters, with just a touch of local color thrown in to give it variety and interest. (50 cts. Cassell Publishing Co.)

'A SISTER'S LOVE,' by W. Heimburg, translated by Margaret P. Waterman, may be recommended to those who desire a book to steady the nerves, like a mild narcotic. Here is nothing disquieting, but everything as it should be, and in its proper place. Maria is good and self-sacrificing; Knaus is just dull enough to give her occasion for the exercise of her virtues by falling in love with Susanna, who is just hateful enough to serve her as a foil; and there is a keen and experienced old aunt, who serves, all by herself, the purposes of a Greek chorus, and tells the reader what he is to think of the others and their doings. The principal incident is a calm and orderly conflagration, in which Maria does a fireman's duty in rescuing Susanna. Agreeable pictures of German home-life fill most of the twenty chapters. The translator has done her work well; the book is neatly bound and

printed; and there are some illustrations which harmonize indifferent well with the text. (\$1.25. Worthington Co.)—'THE ADMINISTRATRIX' is of a different order. If 'A Sister's Love' is not a bad substitute for an after-dinner nap, Mrs. Curtis's novel may be depended on to remove all desire for one. 'I have endeavored to portray the cowboy as he is,' she says by way of preface; and judging from a very slight acquaintance with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, we should say that she has succeeded. Cowboys murder the husband of her heroine, who thereupon puts on cowboy habiliments, the better to track down the murderers. She acquires most of their accomplishments, becomes noted as a crack shot, and finally attains her purpose by slaying the slayers; and is, then and there, 'laid out' by their comrades. Were these the palmy days of the old Bowery Theatre, 'The Administratrix' dramatized would be a tremendous success. That final fusillade would infallibly 'bring down the house.' (John B. Alden.)

'NIGEL BROWNING' is such a remarkably heroic hero that his creator, Agnes Giberne, could in common justice do no less than make two of her prettiest heroines fall in love with him. His and the reader's embarrassment is ended by a drowning accident in which no one is drowned, but each of the young ladies, in turn, gives up love and life and Nigel in favor of the other. As poetic justice demands, the first to surrender the prize wins it; and the reader has the satisfaction of knowing that if Master Nigel is not 'happy for ever after,' he ought to have been before. (\$1.50. Longmans, Green & Co.)—'TAKE the reviewer's opinions of this or any other book,' Mr. G. Washington Moon advises the reader. If they are favorable, you may, without serious risk, invest in a copy. If unfavorable, you risk as little in doing without. Now, what can the reviewer say of such an author? He can say in this instance that his book deals with the marriage question, with Quakerism, Roman Catholicism, Arabs, Gypsies, convents, castles and the Athanasian Creed, and is called 'With All my Worldly Goods I Thee Endow.' And he believes that no one need care any more than the author whether it is read or is not. (\$1.50. Geo. Routledge & Sons.)

D. CHRISTIE MURRAY and Henry Herman have written a novel which they call 'He Fell among Thieves.' The hero is a young Englishman of noble family, born and bred to luxurious tastes without the money to gratify them. Money-lenders in London ruin him and drive him away from home. The Russo-Turkish War breaks out and he enlists in the army of the Sultan. There he is thrown constantly with a notorious criminal travelling under an assumed name. The fellow is killed and our young friend, not knowing who he is, spreads the report that it was he who was killed, assumes the man's name, and returns to England to see if he cannot punish the thieves who ruined him and reestablish himself in the eyes of his relations and of the world. The thieves take him for their confederate, make him one of them, and in this way he manages to bring them to justice. He then proves his own identity and everything ends well. It contains a number of thrilling situations poorly worked up. (\$1.25. Macmillan & Co.)—A TRASHY LITTLE story by Clinton Ross called 'The Speculator' describes a ball in the house of a Wall Street king, his failure the next day, and his subsequent death from apoplexy. This is all. There is nothing unusual in the failure, nothing striking in the people, nothing said or done that isn't utterly commonplace. The author quotes a passage from 'Don Quixote' as a preface to his story and its closing paragraph is 'Thou may'st fully and frankly declare thy opinion of this history.' In view of this kindly invitation one might ask why its author felt impelled to write such a story in such very bad English. It is a pity that a very pretty binding, good paper and nice, broad margins should be wasted on such stuff. (75 cts. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

IN 'A CHRISTIAN WOMAN' we have a translation from the Spanish of a story by Emilia Pardo Bazan. It is a sharply outlined picture of a certain class of Spanish life, in which the characters move not as mere puppets, but as living, speaking men and women, letting us into the secrets of their lives so fully that for the moment, as we read, the world seems bounded by their narrow mental horizon. The book opens with an admirable description of life in Madrid as it looked to a youth pursuing a course of engineering in the university there. The life is vulgar and in certain of its aspects very repulsive, but it is a forcible presentation of certain phases of human nature, and as such attracts while it repels. The young student is dependent upon his uncle who is about to marry a lovely and attractive girl. The nephew goes to the wedding and falls madly in love with his uncle's fiancée. He discovers that she is marrying the old man solely from a sense of duty, but she gives

him no reason to suppose that she repents what she has done or that she takes any but a sisterly interest in him. He lives in the house with them, and for a long time tries to secure at least some slight expression of her love for him, but she remains perfectly true to her husband and to her ideal of what the life of a Christian woman should be. It has been fairly well translated by Mary Springer, and contains an introduction consisting of a sketch of the author's life by Rollo Ogden. (\$1. Cassell Publishing Co.)—IN 'THE IRON GAME,' by Henry F. Keenan, there are numberless incidents, numberless characters, descriptions of escapes from prisons, court-martials, and all the other things which go to make up the pomp and circumstance of war. All the men go South and are wounded, all the women follow them to nurse them, and everybody falls in love with everybody else. There is a great deal of unjust persecution of one young fellow which turns out all right in the end. Each one marries the right person, and it is to be supposed they are all happy. There are some rather sweet and rather pathetic incidents in the book, but there is too much of it, and one tires of it completely before it is done. (\$1. D. Appleton & Co.)

### Shakespeariana

EDITED BY DR. W. J. ROLFE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

*Landor's 'Citation of Shakespeare.'*—Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. have brought out a very neat edition of Landor's 'Citation and Examination of William Shakespeare, Euseby Treen, Joseph Carnaby, and Silas Gough, Clerk, before the Worshipful Sir Thomas Lucy, Knight, touching Deer-Stealing, on the Nineteenth Day of September, in the Year of Grace, 1582' (\$1.25). Landor never wrote anything better, if, indeed, there is anything better in English prose. John Foster, in his biography of the author, remarks:—'One of the last things said to me by Charles Lamb, a week or two before his death, was that only two men could have written the "Examination of Shakespeare,"—he who wrote it and the man it was written on; and that is exactly what I think. . . . There is a subtlety of genius as of beauty that escapes when we would fix the expression of any especial charm; but at least one thing can be truly said of it, that with its very grain and tissue there is interwoven a purpose profoundly human. It is a book steeped in the deepest waters of humanity. It would have been characterized as gentle when the word meant all that is noble as well as mild and wise. There has been nothing written about Shakespeare so worthy of surviving; and, whatever becomes of it, its final place will probably be found near that loved and everlasting name.' It is pleasant to have the book in a dress not unworthy of it; and to have in the same tasteful volume the 'Conference of Master Edmund Spenser, a gentleman of note, with the Earl of Essex touching the state of Ireland, A.D. 1595,' for which Landor professes to be indebted to the same Mr. Ephraim Barnett who preserved the record of the 'Examination.' Mr. Hamilton W. Mabie contributes a brief but appreciative introduction to the book, which is, moreover, prefaced by a good photogravure of Charlecote Hall.

*The Clarendon Press Edition of 'Henry VIII.'*—The edition of 'Henry VIII.' prepared by Mr. W. Aldis Wright (40 cents) needs no commendation to those who are familiar with his scholarly work on the dozen or more plays he has annotated for the same series. The introduction is of more than usual interest, for Mr. Wright, while accepting, as nearly all critics now do, the theory that Fletcher wrote about half of the play, disagrees with them in regard to Shakespeare's authorship of the remainder. Who the other author was he does not venture to suggest. Referring to Mr. Robert Boyle's attempt to prove that Massinger was Fletcher's partner in the work, he says:—'In such a case it is more easy to prove a negative than a positive, and while it may appear to some not sufficiently certain that Mr. Boyle has identified Massinger as the author of the parts he attributes to him, he must be allowed to have given excellent reasons for concluding that they were not written by Shakespeare.' I see that Mr. Arthur Symonds, who edited this play in the 'Henry Irving' edition, takes the same view. The non-Fletcherian part is not Shakespeare's, he believes, but it is 'not clearly assignable to Massinger.' He 'cannot hold with any assurance that the second author has yet been discovered.' For myself, I am at present inclined to say *Aut Shakespeare, aut Diabolus*. Mr. Wright gives a list of words and phrases in the play which he considers 'un-Shakespearian'; but, though half of the work is admitted to be Fletcher's, the number of words occurring only in 'Henry VIII.' is considerably smaller than in other plays of the same period, like 'Cymbeline' and the 'Winter's Tale,' or other English historical plays that are unquestionably Shakespeare's throughout, like the two parts of 'Henry IV.' and 'Henry V.' The 'Henry Irving' edition gives lists of such words at the end of every play, and it is upon these that I base my statement.

*What Did Shakespeare Die of?*—The London *Daily News* raises this question, and answers it thus:—

There is a tradition of very respectable antiquity that he died of a fever contracted through going on a drinking-bout with Ben Jonson and other boon companions; but as not even teetotallers now-a-days would venture to affirm that alcohol is productive of typhus or scarlatina, some other cause must be looked for to account for the death of the great dramatist at the comparatively early age of fifty-two. Mr. J. F. Nisbet, in his new work, 'The Insanity of Genius,' discusses the question from an entirely new point of view—that of pathology. In the author's opinion Shakespeare died of paralysis, or some disease akin to paralysis. The signatures to the will, he holds, afford strong presumption of this, but he has also other facts to adduce in support of his theory. It is a striking proof, he considers, of the little attention that has been paid to the medical aspect of the question that Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps, who prided himself upon gathering together every fact, however slight, which might tend to throw light upon Shakespeare's life, never even mentioned Dr. Hall's medical case-book, published in 1657 by James Cooke, 'a practitioner in physick and chirurgery.' Dr. Hall, as is well known, was Shakespeare's son-in-law, and his book proves beyond doubt that nervous disease existed in Shakespeare's family, a fact which Mr. Nisbet considers accounts for the short average duration of the lives of its members and the speedy extinction of the line of Shakespeare's direct descendants.

I have not seen Mr. Nisbet's book; but he is mistaken in saying that Halliwell-Phillipps 'never even mentioned' Dr. Hall's book published in 1657. It is referred to on p. 276 of vol. i. of his 'Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare' (7th edition), and again on p. 321 of vol. ii., where it is described as 'a rare little volume entitled "Select Observations on English Bodies, or Cures both Empirical and Historical performed upon very eminent Persons in desperate Diseases, first written in Latine by Mr. John Hall, physician, living at Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, where he was very famous, as also in the countries adjacent, as appears by these Observations drawn out of severall hundreds of his as choysed; now put into English for common benefit by James Cooke, practitioner in Physick and Chirurgery" (London, 1657). A second edition appeared in 1679, reissued in 1683 with merely a new title-page.' According to Cooke, Mrs. Hall told him that 'she had some books left by one that professed physick with her husband for some money,' and she showed him among these certain ones that he recognized as being in her husband's handwriting. She denied this, and he had some difficulty in convincing her of the fact, though, as Halliwell-Phillipps remarks, Dr. Hall's 'caligraphy is of an uniform and somewhat peculiar description, not readily to be mistaken for any of the ordinary styles of writing then in use.' We may infer that Mrs. Hall's education had not been of an enlarged character; that books and manuscripts, even when they were the productions of her own husband, were not of much interest to her.' She could write her own name, as the signature to a certain document proves, but that may have been the extent of her chirographical ability, 'for the art of writing was then rare among the ladies of the middle class, and her sister was a marks-woman.'

The fever of which Shakespeare died was probably ascribed to the drinking-bout with Jonson and Drayton because it was then a popular notion that fevers were generally due to some excess in eating or drinking; but very likely the real cause was one that would not have occurred even to the medical men of that day—namely, as Halliwell-Phillipps suggests, 'the wretched sanitary conditions surrounding his residence,' which, though it was the best house in Stratford, was situated in the immediate vicinity of 'middens, fetid water-courses, mud-walls, and piggeries.' Mr. Nisbet's theory, so far as one can judge from the abstract quoted above, seems to have little to sustain it. The will, which was written only a short time before the poet died, was probably signed during his last illness, when the interlined bequest of the 'second-best bed' to his wife was added; and the chirography is not more shaky than we might expect from a sick man who was not a paralytic.

*A Shakespearian Menu.*—I am indebted to Mr. A. J. Hemphill, of the Philadelphia Shakespeare Society, for a copy of the bill-of-fare at their eighteenth annual dinner, on the 23d of April. It is interlarded with apt quotations from acts i. and ii. of 'Twelfth Night,' which have been the winter's study of the Society. They are wonderfully good, considering the limited range allowed for the selection. It would seem difficult to find one for each dish, but the average is from three to six for each. The 'cucumbers' served with the 'Delaware shad' get these three:—'may be worth thy pains' (i. 2); 'an enemy to life' (i. 3); 'if you can separate yourself and your misdemeanours, you are welcome' (ii. 3). The 'Roquefort and DeBrie cheese' has four:—'stealing and giving odour' (i. 1); 'I have't in my nose' (ii. 3); 'stand you awhile



aloof' (l. 4); 'two . . . that drink and good counsel will amend' (l. 5). These may serve as specimens of the whole number, nearly eighty quotations in all.

*Puck among the Types.*—It must have been the merry imp of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' that prompted the compositor to change 'the harpy scene' in my 'copy' of a fortnight ago to 'happy scene'; and as I did not happen to see a proof of the matter his little trick was not detected before the paper went to press.

### Among My Books

(A MOTLEY COLLECTION)

AND there is leaning 'Pole on Whist'  
Against 'The Shorter Catechist';  
A row of Browning, just above  
That book of Michelet's on Love;  
Sir Thomas Browne, discreet and staid,  
Upon the upper shelf is laid;  
And 'Walks in Rome' by Mr. Hare  
Is jostled by my Molière.  
A vellum Villon, nothing loth,  
Hob-nobs with Balzac (rascals both);  
Hosea Biglow's wit and pith  
Are matched by those of Sidney Smith,  
And Mr. Caudle's better half  
Stands up with Petrarch, bound in calf.  
And here and there your eye may see  
A Dickens or a Thackeray.  
That Irving peeping from the row  
Is shelf-worn, for I love it so.  
Here gentle Elia fitting goes  
'Round Marlowe's leonine repose,  
While Goldsmith finds a welcome rest  
With Aphra Behn, in Russia drest.  
And Murger's Latin Quarter life  
Is with 'Josiah Allen's Wife.'  
Look all around, you have not missed  
A single early dramatist.  
I've all the poets—everyone  
From Chaucer down to Tennyson,  
And here you see (I read it yet)  
Heptameron of Margaret.  
A work or two of Thomas Paine,  
The essays of M'sieur Montaigne,  
A 'Joseph Andrews' bound in blue,  
A Virgil and a Horace, too.  
These are the men that nightly meet  
And hold me in their converse sweet.

PERCY FLAGE.

### Boston Letter

AT ONE TABLE in the handsome banquet-hall of the Hotel Brunswick on Thursday sat Col. T. W. Higginson, master of those ceremonies that close with the exclamation-point. At another table sat Mr. Dana Estes, master of the exercises enclosed in the quotation-marks. Gracefully, and with many a delightful reference to the poet whose birthday the Browning Club was then celebrating, Col. Higginson called to their feet the distinguished speakers of the occasion, staying the flow of eloquence now and then that Mr. Estes might read the letters of regret received from Dr. Holmes, Mr. Lowell, Mr. Whittier and others.

Leaning carelessly against the frame of the laurel-crowned portrait of Robert Browning, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, in his own buoyant, enthusiastic manner, told the anecdote of Lowell's father sadly exclaiming, when he learned that the son had been chosen class poet at Harvard, 'O dear, James promised he'd quit writing poetry and go to work.' The speaker aptly continued that though none of us wanted his sons to quit work for poetry, yet the world was better off for poem-makers. Then Dr. Charles Carroll Everett, beginning in his quiet, unemphatic voice, had his audience laughing merrily before five minutes had passed, telling so quaintly the tale of the greedy boy who cried uproariously at a picnic because the other boys were eating something which he didn't like and therefore couldn't eat; and comparing with this boy the English clergyman who had expressed his great desire to enjoy Browning but wanted to know how he could enjoy him. In another five minutes, by quick transition, Dr. Everett had his hearers absorbed in his eloquent description of the new world in literature of which Browning was the god, the creator.

Modestly, in a distant corner of the room, rose the form of Dr. W. J. Rolfe, in response to the call of the Chairman. Col. Hig-

ginson had declared that Dr. Rolfe should have presided over the dinner, and that statement led the Browning Club President to say:—'*The Critic* has raised the question, who can preside at a dinner like George William Curtis. Now, to Boston men that would be the easiest of conundrums—.' 'Why these honied words?' laughingly broke in Col. Higginson. 'I see that one member of the company, at least, can answer the query,' quickly responded Dr. Rolfe; and a general laugh, in which Mr. Higginson heartily joined, went the rounds. Such was the spirit of the gathering. It was full of pleasant good-fellowship, genial talk, with here and there a slight touch of friendly bantering, such as always enlivens a set occasion, but ever with the best of feelings toward brother-Browningites and anti-Browningites as well. The more serious thoughts expressed by the speakers were all given to the public in the daily press reports. Those who heard, however, had the advantage of those who read, since the beauty of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's poem was enhanced by her interpretation, so dramatic in expression and yet natural in its feeling, and since the reading of Col. Clark's poem by Mrs. Jean Margaret Lander showed the reason for the renown won by Mrs. Lander on the stage in years past. Miss Cohen, tall, stately and handsome, represented in her bearing the dignity of the Philadelphia Society; while Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton illustrated most pleasantly her ability to delight by reading as well as by graceful, genial writing. Mrs. Moulton's poem, 'Robert Browning's Star,' was one of the admirable features of the evening's exercises.

There is an interesting incident in the life of Mrs. Lander that can appropriately be recalled, in writing of the Browning celebration. On the 16th of February, 1854, Mrs. Lander, then Miss Davenport, appeared in 'Colombe's Birthday' in Boston, that performance, together with the Philadelphia performance, with John Gilbert in the cast, being, I believe, the only productions the work ever received in a theatre. Miss Davenport's stage career began in the thirties, when she was but eight years old, and continued, with the exception of her retirement during the war-time, until recent years, so that her knowledge of dramatic art is extended. During the Rebellion, in which her gallant husband lost his life, two years after their marriage, she was a ministering angel to the soldiers.

One of the most interesting letters of regret was received by Mr. Estes too late to read at the dinner or to give to the daily press. It was from Mr. W. W. Story, the sculptor, and reads as follows:—

DANA ESTES, Esq.

I beg to return my warm acknowledgments for the kind invitation which you, the Committee of the Browning Society, have sent me to be present at the commemoration of the birthday of Robert Browning on May the 7th. Had it been possible, it would have given me great pleasure to be present on this occasion, and as far as in me lay to do honor to the memory of my old and dear friend, the great Poet, but my occupations will not allow me to join you and add my little note of praise, and besides the material deficiency of time would prevent me, were there no other insuperable obstacle; for there are now only twelve days in which to reach you.

Dear Browning,—he was one of my oldest friends, and I valued his friendship and warm kindness as much as I do his poetry. When I last saw him, it was at Asolo, where I went to make him a visit only shortly before his death, and the loving words he said to me remain engraven indelibly on my heart. My wife and myself had already taken our places in the carriage to leave him. I said 'Good-bye,' when he ran forward, thrust his head into the carriage and cried, 'Friends, friends for forty years, and our friendship has never known a break.' No; it never had, and his memory is dear to me as one of the noblest men, with one of the most loving spirits and the kindest and most generous feelings that I ever knew. Thanking you again for your memory of me on this occasion, I am yours faithfully,

PALAZZO BARBERINI, ROME, April 21, 1891.

W. W. STORY.

Mr. George Riddle has remembered 'Browning week' by selecting 'A Blot in the Scutcheon' for his 999th public reading. The talented reader has just finished his course in Cambridge, and very appropriately celebrated his thousandth reading in the city where, as a college student, he attracted the attention of Longfellow and Prof. Peirce, and where, as a Harvard instructor, he made his memorable first appearance in the Greek play. I asked Mr. Riddle why he held 'A Blot in the Scutcheon' as his favorite reading—for so he stated on the program—and he declared enthusiastically that the work had always appealed to him deeply, but he could no more tell why than he could tell the reason of the violet being his favorite flower. In New York and Chicago, he said, the play drew better than any other selection in his repertoire. Alluding to his one-thousandth reading, he said that his *début* as a reader was made sixteen years ago the 12th of last October, in Boston. Then he went on the stage from 1875 to 1878, when he was called to Harvard; and at the same time he returned to the platform. New

York Mr. Riddle regards as his 'stamping-ground.' 'It has been loyal to me through and through,' he said, 'and it is there I have done my best work; although I am free to confess that Boston's public has come to my support surprisingly since "The Earl" imbroglio.' I presume Mr. Riddle's merited success as a reader has led him to give up now the idea of a return to the stage, but his family associations have always drawn him in that direction. Two of his aunts, Mrs. W. H. Smith and Mrs. J. M. Field, mother of Kate Field, held creditable rank as actresses.

The history of Wm. Douglas O'Connor's story of 'The Brazen Android,' published in *The Atlantic*, has been a theme of conversation with those who have heard the curious story of its acceptance; but hitherto the common version has made several errors. On the authority of an intimate friend of Mrs. O'Connor, I am enabled to state the facts. The story was written between twenty and thirty years ago and was sent to *The Atlantic*. It was partly in type when Mr. O'Connor voluntarily recalled it to make some changes in the text. But he never found time for the alterations—being one of the busiest men in the Life-Saving Bureau at Washington,—and nothing was done with the manuscript until after his death, when Mrs. O'Connor sent it again to the magazine. It comes out now as it was first written. The stories of its rejection, of its return for alterations at the request of the editor, and so on, are denied by Mrs. O'Connor.

The feature of the June *Atlantic* is to be a review by Carl Schurz of the Hay-Nicolay Life of Lincoln. Thirty pages of the magazine are to be given over to this subject. An article on 'Classical Literature in Translation,' by Prof. Richard G. Moulton of Cambridge University, England, who has lately been visiting Boston, and Rose Terry Cooke's 'A Town Mouse and a Country Mouse' will also prove of special interest. Through the second half of this year *The Atlantic* is to run a serial story, by Mary Hartwell Catherwood, entitled 'The Lady of Fort St. John.'

BOSTON, May 12, 1891.

CHARLES E. L. WINGATE.

### The Lounger

THE EDITORS of a literary paper published within ten thousand miles of New York have received this flattering offer of coöperation from a resident of a distant State:—'As I were looking over your paper I thought I would write to you asking your permission to let me become your correspondent here provided you have no correspondent here. I am in position to give you full dramatic as well as shows and Sporting News. Best of reference furnished if required. Inclose find stamp. please return credentials by next mail. if not please answer and let me know you received my letter.'

I WONDER what would be thought of critics of literature, if they were as prejudiced as most critics of music are. If a reviewer of books declined to see any merit in the writings of any other nation than the French, no matter how much better the others might be, what should we say of him? If we spoke the truth, we should say that he was a very one-sided and narrow-minded man; and yet it seems to be accepted as a matter of course that the musical critics of some of the leading New York journals should see no good in any music except that of German composers, no merit in any singing but that of German singers. It cannot be that there is no other good music to be heard, or that there are no other good singers. When such an artist as Charles Santley gives a concert here, these critics sit through a part of the performance, and when they write of it, they do so in terms of amiable condescension. I wish that German opera had given us such an artist as Santley. What is the standard by which these critics judge of the singing voice? Is it the power to split the ears? Certainly they understand music, and they must know that we have never heard a singer with a more beautiful voice or finer method than Santley's. If knowledge of music tells us anything, it should tell us this. Then why is it that these critics, who ought to know, cannot or will not recognize what is patent to every musician whose ears are not stuffed with the cotton of prejudice?

ONE KNOWS perfectly well upon taking up his morning *Tribune* or his *Evening Post* what is going to be said of the concert or opera of the night before, by knowing whether it was a concert or opera sung by German singers. I confess that I find this one-sided criticism, if criticism it can be called, somewhat tiresome. I don't like to know exactly what a musical critic is going to say of a singer who makes his or her first appearance, before I have read his critique, any more than I want to know what a reviewer is going to say of a new book. It is all very well to prefer German music to any other—that is a question of taste; but when it comes to the singing, that is a matter of fact, and national prejudices should not be permitted to affect the question. There are certain uni-

versal rules for singing as there are for writing or painting or any other art, and they should not be ignored by those who pretend to criticize.

BISHOP POTTER'S idea of the mission of music was disclosed in his interesting address at the opening of the Carnegie Music Hall on May 5. That mission, he declared, was threefold:—

First, music was a recreation. The tired and worn human mind found rest and refreshment in pleasant melody and buoyant rhythm. Second, music was intellectually and emotionally inspiring. To hear a theme and follow it through the manifold guises of rich and masterly musical treatment was to enjoy a rare and noble mental and emotional exercise. The third and highest mission of music was to speak the language that was beyond the power of words, the language of aspiration, faith and hope. This was the highest office of music and that which the speaker hoped to see it always fulfilling in the new hall, which he now declared to be open.

Evidently the Bishop does not agree with Tolstoi that music is a wild beast, to be caged or killed.

MR. BLAINE was conspicuous in a front box at the opening performance at the Music Hall. He looked perfectly calm; outwardly, he was calm; but within, it seems, he was in a state of violent eruption. *The Mail and Express* has a knack at seeing inside of people, and it discovered at once that the Secretary of State was raging within, while without he was as placid as an embroidered lamb upon an embroidered landscape. It was all on account of 'the Chilian insurgent vessel,' the *Itata*.

He was cool and collected, and his enjoying the music was calculated to throw off all suspicion that he was about to seize a foreign vessel. One or two great men have attended places of public amusement on the eve of important events. Mr. Blaine's apparent nonchalance last evening while directing the seizure in California waters can be compared to the action of the Duke of Wellington on the eve of the battle of Waterloo. The Duke attended the famous ball of the Duchess of Richmond at Brussels to throw off suspicion of the approaching battle. At midnight he left the ball-room and hurried to the front. When the morning dawned he was at the head of the English army awaiting Napoleon's attack.

It is no wonder *The Mail and Express* article was headed 'Blaine!' in big letters, and that this particular paragraph was labelled 'Cool on the Eve of a Great Event.' No wonder, too, that the editor went on to quote 'editorial opinions as to his [Mr. Blaine's] position in regard to 1892.'

THE MARRIAGE of Mr. Herman Oelrichs of this city to Miss Fair of California was not allowed to go uncelebrated in verse. One of the bridegroom's countless friends, Mr. Charles Henry Webb—the true though not the only bearer of that name,—composed this felicitous epithalamium on the happy event, and sent it with a vellum copy of his book of 'Vagrom Verse.'

Go, little Book, to my Viking's bower,  
Late, perhaps, for the happy hour,  
But wearing white as a guest that fair  
A page would add to the bridal train,  
And bearing a wish that the best betide—  
Glück to the groom and glück to the bride.  
So the Rover though deeper he never may look  
Shall know by this token he's brought to book,  
With hand upon thee again he shall swear  
That to him in this world but one woman is Fair;  
And the bride shall know by the Viking's vow  
That our Herman of old is her man now!

JUST BEFORE Mr. Stanley's departure for England, last month, a little boy of fourteen, who had sold over two hundred sets of 'In Darkest Africa,' went to Mr. Thomas, the head of the subscription-book department at Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, and told him he wanted to get the explorer's signature in his order-book, as a keepsake and heirloom. How could he do it? Mr. Thomas told him the way to get it would be to ask for it. So he gave the lad a card of introduction, and early the next morning it was sent up to Mr. Stanley's room at the hotel. The youngster was invited to follow it, and up he went. Having made known his desire, he was delighted to have it gratified at once. But that was not all. Breakfast being served, the caller was pressed to stay; and when at last he took his departure, he had been closeted with his hero for three hours. Mr. Stanley told him of his adventures in Africa, and got him to tell of his adventures in selling the story of the expedition. He also narrated anecdotes of his childhood, and encouraged the caller to speak freely of the hopes and ambitions that cheered his own youthful days. In the sight of that young man of fourteen, the explorer is to-day a greater hero than he was six weeks ago; and he is felt to be not only a hero, now,



but a friend as well. This story was told me to illustrate Mr. Stanley's simplicity and kindness of heart, and it seems to me to do so exceedingly well.

A CORRESPONDENT in San Mateo, Cal., calls my attention to a circular which he thinks may interest me. It does. It is dated Tiffin, Ohio, and is signed 'Yours confidentially, ———, ——— & Co.' I suppress the names out of regard for the cautionary form of signature. The circular is issued by gentlemen who call themselves 'journalists.' It runs thus:—

DEAR SIR:—The student of the present day, though more capable than that of any preceding generation, finds that in doing justice to the physical man, he has little time for literary work and a thorough mastery of the sciences, and therefore his efforts in one branch or the other, or it may be both, are unsatisfactory. There are students in every college who enjoy literary work and those who detest it. There are those who are obliged by a tyrannical college Faculty to waste both mortal time and parental money in gorging a brain with a material that is as essentially foreign to that particular intellect as is saw-dust to the human system. Therefore, in consideration of this fact, and of the work of students in their closing weeks of college, we have endeavored to fill a long-felt want by engaging two of the most prolific writers of the age, which enables us to furnish all kinds of literary productions at a very slight cost. Special attention paid to lectures, sermons and political speeches.

COMING RIGHT DOWN to business, the 'Journalists' say that their 'prices are as follows':—For an 'Essay,' \$3 to \$10; for an 'Oration,' \$5 to \$12. 'Eulogies' and 'Invectives' rule higher: \$6 to \$20 each; and 'Sermons' higher still: \$6 to \$25. 'Political Speeches' are even more expensive than 'Sermons': \$10 to \$30; and lectures, at \$10 to \$50, come highest of all. This is an age of labor-saving devices, division of labor, and all that sort of thing; and as 'the large number of productions that we have already furnished to the best colleges of the land have given entire satisfaction in every respect; and in almost every case where our productions have been delivered the comments of the press were very favorable, especially upon the style and diction,' I look to see a rich harvest reaped by Messrs. ———, ——— & Co. of Tiffin, Ohio, Journalists, during the commencement season now at hand. The more so as 'No money is required in advance.'

### The Music Festival

IT IS A STRETCH of courtesy to call the series of concerts, with which the Music Hall at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue was opened, a music festival. It was an occasion for rejoicing on the part of Mr. Walter Damrosch and the two musical societies which he conducts; but whether it was a time for public festivity must be left for the future to decide. The hall itself is an admirable addition to the list of public resorts in this city. Architecturally it has sufficient merit to have won the commendation of experts. It offers to the lover of music a large and attractive (not distracting) auditorium, in which the seats are comfortable and excellently arranged, while the acoustics are almost perfect. If, however, the methods of the management during the so-called festival are to be continued in the future, the public comfort will be considerably diminished. These methods, or rather the lack of method, permitting speculators to retail the majority of the seats on the sidewalk and the ushers to peddle the rest inside the auditorium, are likely to do little less injury to the new enterprise than the asking of 50 cents for a festival-book which gave little information about the compositions to be performed, and much about matters concerning which less curiosity may be supposed to have been felt. The book fairly bristled with errors both of commission and omission.

The salient features of the series of concerts may be easily selected. The novelties were Berlioz's 'Te Deum,' Heinrich Schütz's 'Seven Last Words of Christ,' and two *a capella* choruses by Tchaikowsky. The Berlioz work was written for three choruses, orchestra and organ. The composer's design was to have one chorus and the orchestra at one end of the church, the other chorus with the organ at the other end, and between the two a much larger chorus of boys, singing in unison, to represent the congregation. The work is written throughout in the antiphonal style, which is nobly announced by the answering chords of orchestra and organ. Mr. Damrosch had his two choruses, organ and orchestra massed on the stage, and his boys' chorus, which was much too small, in the left gallery. As a result, pretty nearly every effect aimed at by Berlioz was lost. In the Schütz work, which was written one hundred years before Bach's 'St. Matthew Passion' and paved the way for it, Mr. Damrosch committed another artistic blunder by allowing his entire chorus to sing a part of the narration, set by Schütz as a quartet for the voices repre-

senting the four evangelists. The performance at one of the afternoon concerts of the second finale of 'Figaro,' which is almost incomprehensible without the action, is one of those misdeeds for which not only Mr. Damrosch but all our other conductors must be blamed.

The presence of the famous Russian composer, Peter Ilitsch Tchaikowsky, added much to the interest of the concerts. He conducted several of his own works, and at the first concert, in directing his 'March Solenne,' at once convinced orchestra and audience of his musical force. His third suite, given on Thursday afternoon, was superbly played under his guidance, and the splendid series of variations, closing with an inspiring polonaise, wrought the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. The composer achieved a similar triumph on Saturday afternoon, when his B-flat minor piano concerto was excellently performed, with Adele aus der Ohe as the soloist.

### The Washington Memorial Arch

AT THE Madison Square Theatre—whose use has been kindly offered by Mr. Palmer—there will be a most interesting professional and amateur matinee for the benefit of the arch fund on Tuesday next, May 19. As we announced last week, Mr. Jefferson will make his only appearance in New York this spring, on this occasion. He is coming down from Buzzard's Bay with Mr. Florence to gather the rest of his company together to play the third act of 'The Rivals.' With these two will appear Mrs. Drew, Miss Viola Allen, Miss Elise Lombard and Messrs. Paulding, Dunham and Warren (young Joseph Jefferson). Two plays will be presented by some of the best amateur talent in the city. Mr. Evert J. Wendell will appear in 'A Game of Cards,' in which he will be supported by Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk (professional) and Miss Cleather and Mr. James (amateurs); and the Columbia College Dramatic Club has consented to give Jerome K. Jerome's 'Fennel,' in which Mr. Dorr plays the part of the master violin-maker; Mr. Morrell and Mr. Coolidge the apprentices, and Miss Eyttinge the daughter. Tickets will be on sale at the theatre on Tuesday morning.

The following subscriptions were received by Treasurer Wm. R. Stewart, 54 William Street, during the week ending May 9:—

\$100 each:—J. Henry Work, J. Herbert Johnston, Henry R. Worthington, Mrs. Archibald Russell, Eugene Kelly, Jr., Keck, Mosser & Co.

\$50 each:—John Daniell & Sons, Gerard Beekman (additional), J. William Beekman (additional).

\$25 each:—Anita Stewart (additional), F. R. Rives (additional), Wm. R. Stewart, Jr. (additional), Dudley G. Gautier.

\$10.53:—Cash-box returns.

\$1 each:—Elihu Phinney, Mrs. Elihu Phinney and Alexander S. Phinney, all of Cooperstown, N. Y.

Total subscriptions to May 9, \$101,659.80; amount still needed, \$14,340.20.

### The Fine Arts

#### The Metropolitan Museum of Art

THE spring opening of the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts was signalized, as usual, by the display of many objects, either new acquisitions or works not before on exhibition. The Japanese swords from the Brayton Ives collection, which were presented to the Museum at the time of the sale, constitute the most important addition to the permanent collections. They have been placed in the gallery over the main hall, which already contained Chinese porcelains and other objects of Oriental art. The narrow, upright cases in which they have been put allow of their being examined closely. Similar cases should be made for the gems in the Gold Room. In the first of the East Galleries several new paintings are to be seen. The most interesting is the portrait of Walt Whitman by J. W. Alexander, presented by Mrs. Jeremiah Milbank. Another portrait, of a young woman in black, is the gift of the painter, Mr. Wm. M. Chase. A small landscape, 'On the Hudson,' by Thomas Doughty, one of the founders of the National Academy, has been presented by Mr. S. P. Avery, who has also given a portrait of Mr. G. P. A. Healy, by himself. Mr. G. H. Story has given one of his paintings, 'The Young Mother'; Mr. Geo. H. Yewell his 'Pulpit in St. Mark's, Venice'; Mr. Frederick Loeser a painting by Escosura, 'King Philip Presenting Rubens to Velasquez'; and Mr. S. Howland Russell a painting by W. P. W. Dana, 'Heart's-Ease.' A large group in bronze, of a half-nude figure with two bear cubs, the work of Mr. P. W. Bartlett, and two busts in bronze, one of Burns by Charles Calverley, and one of Mr. G. F. Lucas by Moreau-Vautier, of Paris, have been added to the miscellaneous collection of modern sculpture. A finely illuminated manuscript of St. Augustine's 'City of God' has been presented by Miss Mary Leroy

King. The additions to the cast collection will be more interesting to archaeologists than to artists. From the Louvre come casts of the Moabite stone, of interest to Bible students, of the seated statue of King Gudea of Tel-loh, one of the most ancient cities of Chaldea, and of the sarcophagus of the Phoenician king Eshmunazar. Architects and artists will be more interested in the small reductions of pediments from Olympia.

Mr. Havemeyer's Rembrandts still remain in the loan collection of paintings, but so many new pictures have been added as to make quite a change in the general appearance of the gallery. 'A Tiger,' by Corot; two landscapes by Cazin, 'Environs of Chatillon' and 'An October Day,' with hayricks; a 'Smoker,' by Roybet; an 'Embarkation,' by Isabey; a 'Landscape with Cattle,' by Jules Dupré; 'The Bride,' by Monticelli; 'Landscape and Cattle,' by Van Marcke; a twilight scene, by Daubigny; a small landscape, by George Inness; 'Feeding Poultry,' by Julien Dupré; landscapes by Huguet and David Johnson; 'Flowers and Fruit,' by Robie; a river scene, by Jongkind; a 'Shepherd and Sheep,' by Jacque; a 'Woman of Morocco,' by Lecomte, and a 'Scene on the Scheldt,' by Clays, belong to Mr. Henry M. Johnson of Brooklyn. Other notable new paintings are two Western landscapes, 'Mount Tacoma,' and 'Spanish Peaks, Colorado,' loaned by the artist, Samuel Colman, and a picture of 'Gleaners,' by Julien Dupré, belonging to Mr. Durand-Ruel.

President Marquand of the Metropolitan Museum is Chairman of the Committee appointed to raise \$100,000 for the purchase of a collection of casts of ancient works of plastic art. Robert W. De Forest is Vice-Chairman, Edward D. Adams Treasurer, and Howard Mansfield Secretary. The other members are Augustus St. Gaudens and J. Q. A. Ward, sculptors; F. D. Millet and Louis C. Tiffany, painters; Stanford White and Wm. R. Ware, architects; A. C. Merriam and Allan Marquand, archaeologists; and Fred'k W. Rhinelander, George F. Baker and John S. Kennedy, amateurs. The amount raised thus far is \$60,000. This assures the completion of the fund; so, on Saturday, May 2, the Committee paid a visit to the Slater Museum at Norwich, Conn., to inspect the excellent collection of casts there, and get points as to the arrangement of statues, busts, bas-reliefs, etc. The only absentees were Messrs. Marquand, Tiffany, Kennedy and Ward; and in addition to the other committeemen who made the trip were Messrs. Andrew Carnegie, Brayton Ives, T. B. Clarke, William E. Dodge, Charles Stewart Smith, Theodore Weston, F. F. Thompson, Wm. Loring Andrews, Chas. C. Beaman, E. L. Godkin, Richard W. Gilder, Prof. Allan Marquand, Charles de Kay of the *Times* and Mr. Mooney of the *Tribune*. Mr. William A. Slater and Mr. R. P. Keep, Principal of the Norwich Free Academy, did the honors of the Museum, and after the casts, as arranged by Mr. Edward Robinson of Boston, had been duly inspected, there was a reception at Mr. Slater's house. The party left New York at 10 A.M. and reached town again at 11 P.M. after a very pleasant outing.

It is understood that the numerous signed petition in favor of opening the Museum on Sunday afternoons will receive favorable consideration at the meeting to be held on the 18th inst.

#### Art Notes

*The Magazine of Art* for May has for frontispiece an engraving of Millais' picture, 'Jephthah's Daughter.' Benjamin Constant is the subject of the opening article, which is illustrated with a portrait of the artist by himself and reproductions of several of his most famous pictures. Romily Allen discusses 'The Crucifixion in Celtic Art,' with examples which do not give one a very good idea of that latest phase of Byzantine ornamentation. 'Some Recent Irish Laces,' illustrated by phototypes, do more complete justice to modern Celtic art. The designs, in various historic styles, are excellent. Meissonier is the subject of a biographical article by Walter Armstrong. One of the illustrations shows the painter at work in his garden and another reproduces that over-rated picture, '1814.' In an article on 'Modern Schools of Painting and Sculpture' we find a portrait of Mr. Sargent, by himself.

—F. F. Burgin and Leon Barritt of the New York *Press* are about to issue 'Engravings: How to Estimate their Cost,' with pictorial examples and accounts of processes, etc.

—The drinking fountain at the north-east corner of Union Square, which has been presented to the city by Miss Shepherd of Orange, N. J., is ornamental as well as useful. It is a large block of red granite. On the side toward the park, enclosed by Ionic pilasters and entablature, are two boys holding laurel sprays over a shell into which pours the water. On the other side, the water gushes from the mouths of two dolphins into a large basin for horses. It is the work of Mr. Olin Warner and is a pleasing contrast to much (we might say most) of our public fountains and open air statuary generally.

—Messrs. McKim, Mead & White have been selected as the architects of the clubhouse of the new Metropolitan Club, at Fifth Avenue and 61st Street, facing Central Park. It is too early to say anything definite about the proposed building, beyond the fact that it probably will be built of marble, in the simplest and severest style of Italian architecture.

—D. Lothrop Co. have in preparation 'Leaves from an Artist's Field-Book,' by Wedworth Wadsworth.

—At the annual meeting of the National Academy of Design on Wednesday, Thomas W. Wood was elected President (to succeed Daniel Huntington) and Frank D. Millet, Vice-President; while Fred'k Dielman was re-elected Treasurer and T. A. Richards Corresponding Secretary. S. Coleman and L. C. Tiffany were elected Academicians and Horatio Walker an Associate.

—The portrait of Washington prefixed to Prof. Fiske's 'American Revolution' is engraved, he believes, for the first time. It is from a miniature enamelled on copper by Henry Bone, R.A., who appears to have followed an original crayon sketch made in 1796 by William Birch, to whom he has given credit by putting his initials, W. B., on the miniature. The English family for whom the miniature was made became straitened in circumstances, and the portrait was bought by George Peabody, who gave it to a lady in London. She in turn became desirous of obtaining its value, and it is now in the possession of Mrs. Hemenway of Boston.

—French engravings of the eighteenth century, after Boucher, Watteau, Lancret, Greuze and other painters are to be seen at Wunderlich's gallery.

#### "Literary Criticism in Chicago"

[A Man-of-Letters, in America.]

'TIS COLD WORK—authorship—without something to puff one into fashion.' So wrote Charles Lamb to his friend Bernard Barton, and no doubt Bernard replied from the bottom of his unpuffed soul, 'Aye, marry, is't!' Lamb's random remark explains why, in Chicago, amid its million inhabitants, its vast enterprises and activities, its just pride of progress and expanding power, and its ambition of metropolitan recognition, literature crouches like a sick cat in a corner, musing on its neglect and wondering when, in the greatest publishing centre in the United States, it will come to its own.

On the hay-scales, where Postmaster Sexton weighs the literary activity of Chicago, it is reckoned by the ton. In the 'bird's-eye view of the literary field in America, given in the New York *Critic* of last week, it was without a solitary representative. To be sure, the bird that took the view, besides being purblind, was perched in a hollow; but in ten columns of notes, in which the doings of nearly a hundred American authors were mentioned, there was not a single reference to a Chicago writer. The omission, however, could hardly be deemed invidious, since in all the land south of Washington and west of the Alleghanies, only four writers, James Lane Allen, Mrs. Custer, Edward Eggleston and Capt. King, were thought sufficiently prominent to warrant any interest in their occupation.

Cold indeed is the lot of authorship in the West without some *Critic* to puff it into fashion. But the profession of letters in Chicago is not so insignificant or barren of product and promise as the Eastern authority would lead one to suppose. Overshadowed by the fame of her men of affairs, her men of letters have nevertheless won national recognition, and are entitled to more. Some of these days Chicago will wake up to find that she has something to boast of more precious than the record of her marvelous growth, and more enduring than the mammoth piles of brick and steel that now shut the light of heaven out of her bustling streets. Before that day comes, however, she will have to get out of her provincial ways. Her society will have to emerge from the imitative village stage, and assume a tone and character of its own. Then recognition will be accorded to worth before wealth, and acquisitiveness will not be the ruling passion of the hour.

To-day every material interest in Chicago is booming because it is boomed, while literature languishes because it is not puffed up. There is only one publication here devoted to the cause of letters. *The Dial* is probably the ablest as it is the most just literary review in the United States. But it lacks two indispensable requisites in the work of cultivating and upholding Chicago as a field of letters—personality and puffery. Its reviews are all calm and no moving tempest. They are written by professors or doctrinaires, and being signed by the writers have no further authority than inheres in printed individual opinions. *The Dial* itself has no all-pervading and distinctive editorial tone, the lack of which toward creating a school or following of letters in Chicago could only be



made good by a system of unfaltering, indiscriminating and unremitting puffery of local literature. Its publishers, A. C. McClurg & Co., have the example of the principal publishing-houses in the self-appreciative East in this lucrative method of puffing their own special brand of letters into fashion and 'pay dirt.' Who does not remember how Messrs. Howells, James and Aldrich, with the effective co-operation of their publishers, puffed themselves into a 'sort of literary triumviracy'? *The Atlantic Monthly* is never weary of lauding the publications of its publishers. In *Harper's Monthly*, the brilliant pens of Messrs. Curtis, Howells, Warner and Hutton reserve their choicest words of praise and adulation for those authors whose books are published by Harper & Bros. The literary features of *The Century* are thinly disguised feeders to the reputation and popularity of those writers whose books bear the Century Company imprint. And such literary weeklies as *The Critic* live solely by and for the demand they create for the puffed wares of their patrons among publishers. It is this widely diffused and thoroughly organized system of mutual and self-laudation that creates a literary centre, not mere literary genius and productiveness. It was the business management of literature that so long gave to Boston its primacy in American letters, and when the centre of literary advertising moved to New York the apparent literary primacy of Boston passed away. When the authors and publishers of Boston became too dignified to cry their wares from their housetops, the less fastidious but shrewder publishers of New York stole their thunder and with it their business.

Literary criticism in Chicago, what there is of it, has not yet learned that molasses is more nutritious to literary genius than vinegar. Its hand is Ishmaelish. It is against everybody from Shakespeare down to Browning. It smites and spares not. The bearded grain 'and the flowers that grow between' strew its path. It loves to hear the swish of its own blade and is especially pitiless when its victims are home-bred. The reviews of books in our daily papers are often written with great and discriminating ability, but they are anonymous, and Chicago newspapers are too vivid in other respects for their literary departments to attract the attention they deserve.

But despite discouraging environments, there is some literary vitality in Chicago which no 'bird's-eye view of the literary field in America' can justly ignore.

### Notes

THE London publishing-house of J. R. Osgood, McIlvaine & Co. send us their first 'Literary Bulletin,' and it is an unusually interesting one. The list of English books includes Oscar Wilde's 'Intentions,' a volume of essays; Thomas Hardy's stories, 'A Group of Notable Dames'; Austin Dobson's 'Walpole'; George Du Maurier's novel, 'Peter Ibbertson,' and St. George Mivart's Essays. Among the American books in the Bulletin are Miss Wilkins's 'New England Nun,' Eugene Field's 'Profitable Tales' and 'Western Verse,' Sarah Orne Jewett's 'Strangers and Wayfarers,' Frank R. Stockton's 'House of Martha,' T. A. Janvier's 'Color Studies' (spelt 'Colour' out of regard for English prejudice), W. D. Howells's 'Criticism and Fiction,' F. Hopkinson Smith's 'Col. Carter of Cartersville,' George Kennan's 'Siberia and the Exile System,' Charles Egbert Craddock's 'In the Stranger People's Country,' Richard Harding Davis's 'Gallegher, and Other Stories,' and a novel written in partnership by Elizabeth Bisland and Rhoda Broughton.

—In the preface to his 'American Revolution,' issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. last week, Prof. John Fiske alludes to a new book of his, now in press, called 'The Discovery of America and the Spanish Conquests.' He adds:—

The plan occurred to me in 1881 of writing a narrative history of the United States, neither too long to be manageable nor too brief to be interesting, something that might comprise the whole story from 1493 to (say) 1865 within four octavos, like the book of my lamented friend, the late John Richard Green. Plans of this sort, to be properly carried out, require much time, and concurrence of favorable circumstances, as Mr. Cotter Morison has pointed out in his sketch of Gibbon. If my plan is ever fully realized, it can only be after many years.

—The original MSS. of the late Minister Dallas, extracts from whose journal are being printed in *The Century*, are in the possession of Miss Susan Dallas of Philadelphia, the ex-Minister's daughter. We understand that Miss Dallas thinks of getting out a book containing both the journal and the letters.

—The address on 'The Authority of Holy Scripture,' delivered on January 20, by the Rev. Dr. C. A. Briggs, Edward Robinson, Professor of Biblical Theology in the Union Theological Seminary, has come out in a revised and enlarged form, with preface and appendix, containing additional notes and explanations. The pub-

lishers are Charles Scribner's Sons. It contains some additional notes and explanations. The appendix is practically a supplementary address, in which the author makes more elaborate explanations of the position he has taken.

—'The Poems of John Ruskin,' announced by Charles E. Merrill & Co., will not appear till after July 1, as it is desired to secure for the American edition of the volumes the protection afforded by the new copyright law.

—Chas. L. Webster & Co. have removed from 3 East 14th Street to 67 Fifth Avenue—the recent temporary quarters of the Mercantile Library.

—Mr. Amos K. Fiske, author of 'Midnight Talks at the Club,' has just brought out through Fords, Howard & Hulbert, 'Beyond the Bourn: Reports by a Traveller Returned from the Undiscovered Country.'

—The new books of the Cassell Publishing Co. are 'The Friend of Death,' adapted from the Spanish by Mary J. Serrano (in the Unknown Library); 'There is no Devil,' from the Hungarian of Maurus Jókai, by Mme. F. Steinitz, and 'Bras D'Acier,' adapted from the French of Alfred Brehet (in the Blue Library); and 'Younger American Poets,' edited by Douglas Sladen, an anthology of the period 1830-90.

—Mr. J. M. Barrie, author of 'A Window in Thrums,' is said to be writing a life of Mr. Russel, the late editor of *The Scotsman*.

—'Mea Culpa: A Woman's Last Word,' by Henry Harland, and 'The Coming Terror,' Robert Buchanan's essays, are announced by John W. Lovell Co. in this city and by Wm. Heinemann in London. Messrs. Lovell issue also 'In the Heart of the Storm,' by Maxwell Grey.

—Duprat & Co. announce 'Nouvel Armorial du Bibliophile: Guide de l'Amateur des Livres Armoriés,' by Joannis Guigard, in two handsome volumes.

—Messrs. Harper have just published 'A Box of Monkeys, and Other Farce-Comedies,' by Grace Livingston Furniss, and Louis J. Jennings's new novel, 'The Philadelphian.' Mr. Jennings, now a Member of Parliament, was for some years editor of the New York Times. He is not the only editor who has returned from this city to British soil and entered the House of Commons. Mr. T. P. Gill, M. P., was formerly the editor of *The Catholic World*; and Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, M. P., was for some years on the staff of the *Herald*.

—Some fresh facts about De Quincey will be embodied in a volume of 'Memories' by a 'Retired Publisher's Assistant,' for many years in the service of Mr. Tait of *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine*. De Quincey's life in Holyrood and his modes of forwarding 'copy' to Tait's will be described. The volume will also contain information about Sir Walter Scott, the Ballantynes and Archibald Constable.

—At the celebration of Browning's birthday anniversary on May 7 (described in our Boston Letter this week), Mr. Lowell could not be present, as he is 'compelled to forego all, even pleasurable, excitements.' Dr. Holmes sent a letter in which he said:—

I met Browning in society many times in England and found him a most agreeable, interesting and unaffected companion. It seemed to me that he was everywhere needed, and everywhere acceptable. The immense vitality which we recognize in his poetry showed itself in his sturdy frame and abundant conversation. I almost thought of Ben Jonson when I met him, and could hardly help exclaiming when I left him, 'O rare Robert Browning.'

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, who was present, declared that 'the secret of the power of Browning over the great masses of men is that he talks as if he were talking to archangels, and, even if we do not understand, we are uplifted. I think that two or three hundred years hence, when we do not know so much about the Fenians, about the Italian question, or about Baron Rudini, Robert Browning will be remembered.'

—The Rev. Dr. W. W. Newell, a well-known Presbyterian clergyman and author, formerly of this city, died at Andover, Mass., in his eighty-fourth year, on Monday last.

—Théodore de Banville, the poet, could not be persuaded, according to *Figaro*, to seek a place in the French Academy. One day François Coppée vainly tried to overcome the prejudice. 'But,' he cried, at last, 'what will you do if we bring you the notification of your election on a silver plate?' De Banville answered quickly: 'I shall certainly accept the silver plate.'

—In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord Monckswell's Copyright bill passed the second reading under a pledge that the bill should not be proceeded with any further during the present session of Parliament.

—An English publisher is bringing out an elaborate work on 'The Poets and Poetry of the Century,' of which A. H. Miles is the editor. The special aim of the work is said to be an anthology of unusual magnitude, the text of which shall be strictly accurate.

—The addresses delivered by Bishop Doane during the past twenty years to the graduating classes of St. Agnes School, Albany, will be published by Mr. Whittaker.

—Dr. Birkbeck Hill appeals to all who love Samuel Johnson to meet on Saturday of this week and honor the memory of James Boswell, Esq., May 16 being the hundredth anniversary of the appearance of the immortal 'Boswell's Johnson.' In the British Museum there are now thirty editions of the book printed in Great Britain, irrespective of Irish and American editions.

—A recent number of *Brooklyn Life* contains a frontispiece portrait of Mrs. James S. T. Stranahan, author of a comprehensive History of French Painting and wife of one of Brooklyn's foremost citizens.

—*The Spectator*, in a review of the History of Lincoln, pays tribute to the martyr-President's 'truly marvellous literary power, which, considering that his education had been that of a rail-splitter, appears to us one of the most astonishing literary phenomena of this century.'

—Mr. Tuer, the London publisher, at a recent sale paid \$170 for a copy of Charles Lamb's 'Poetry for Children,' and intends to issue a facsimile reprint of it. The British Museum does not possess a copy of the book.

—The New York Kindergarten Association is urging upon the Board of Education 'the establishment of the kindergarten system in connection with the public schools of the City of New York'; and the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College is endeavoring to get the authorities to make the same departure—already made, with good results, in other cities.

—An interesting lecture on Egypt was delivered by Mr. W. W. Ellsworth before the Young Men's Association of the Broadway Tabernacle Church on Thursday evening, May 7. It was not an archaeological disquisition, and made no pretence to be such, and was all the more entertaining on that account, being a simple recital of the doings and adventures of 'An American in Egypt' during a visit of several months.

—*The American Hebrew* of May 22 will be devoted to the 'Progress of the Jew.' It will contain articles by eminent specialists on the Jew in business, finance, literature, art, music, medicine, law, education, charitable work, etc.

—Mrs. Sutherland Orr's Life of Robert Browning will be published shortly by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., in two volumes, with a new portrait and a picture of Browning's study. This biography is 'authorized.' The next volume in the series of American Statesmen will be devoted to Lewis Cass, whose biographer is Prof. A. C. McLaughlin of the University of Michigan.

—The disposition in England to conciliate the British colonists is illustrated in Sir Bernard Burke's undertaking a work in two volumes called 'Colonial Gentry.'

—Charles P. Johnson gives an account in *The Athenaeum* of May 2 of 'a lost tale by W. M. Thackeray,' entitled 'Reading a Poem,' which began its appearance in *Britannia* on May 1, 1841—just fifty years ago,—and has since slumbered without detection till a copy of that extinct weekly was found in the British Museum containing this amusing little storyette over the signature of Michael Angelo Titmarsh.

—Mme. Blavatsky, member of an old German-Russian family, and author of 'Isis Unveiled,' died on Friday, May 8, in England. In 1878 she founded the Theosophical Society, in this country, of which there are now many branches; and afterwards established *The Theosophist* at Bombay. The tenets of her mystical philosophy have found much favor among people whose minds are not thoroughly baked.

—In a paper entitled 'A New Phase of Woman's Education in America,' read before the National Council of Women by Mrs. Annie Nathan Meyer, one of the Trustees of Barnard College, and printed in full in *The Woman's Tribune*, Washington, occur these words:—

Barnard refuses special students except in laboratory work, and in the post-graduate courses. It believes in fixed standards in order to correct the general diffuseness of woman's study. It believes in general culture before specialization. I think it is important that both men and women in America should be less ready to specialize, particularly less ready to enter the professions without adequate preparation. I think it is even more important for the women than for men. The real value of specialized work must lie in the University. . . . I agree with the President of Columbia that it will be an advantage for the manhood, for

the educated womanhood of America, that some men and some women get their education in the midst of the atmosphere of a great city. You will remember that our great poet, Longfellow, has made answer, the 'scholar should live not in the green stillness of the country where he can hear the heart of nature beat,' but in 'the dark grey city where he can hear and feel the throbbing heart of man.' There should the scholar live.

## The Free Parliament

[All communications must be accompanied with the name and address of the correspondent, not necessarily for publication. Correspondents answering or referring to any question are requested to give the number of the question for convenience of reference.]

### QUESTIONS

1614.—Cardinal Wiseman, in his 'Recollections of the Last Four Popes, and of Rome in Their Times' (London: Hurst & Blackett), relates (p. 116) how Washington Irving, having had access to the manuscript of a poor young French artist, Chatillon by name, translated his account of his adventures among the banditti, altered and embellished the tale, and published it in the third part of his 'Tales of a Traveller' under the title of 'The Painter's Adventure'—all without the consent or knowledge of the real author, only stating in his preface that the 'Adventure' was taken almost entirely from an authentic account in manuscript—a statement which, Cardinal Wiseman observes, was of course taken as a fiction, and the whole thing credited to Washington Irving. 'And astonished and disappointed was the poor French artist when he found that the manuscript which he used to lend freely to his friends had been translated and published without his permission or knowledge by M. Wassinton, as he called his literary pirate.' Thus Cardinal Wiseman. But the whole performance sounds so unlike all I have ever heard of Irving's character and ways, that it is hard to believe: Do you suppose it could be disproved?

ROME, ITALY.

M. H. L.

## Publications Received

[RECEIPT of new publications is acknowledged in this column. Further notice of any work will depend upon its interest and importance. When no address is given the publication is issued in New York.]

- Adams, W. I. L., and Ehrmann, C. The Photographic Instructor. \$1.  
Allen, J. L. Flute and Violin. \$1.50. . . . . Scovill & Adams Co.  
Bacon, T. S. It is Written. . . . . Harper & Bros.  
Bates, A. A Book of Nine Tales. \$1. . . . . Boston: Roberts Bros.  
Bell, H. Chamber Comedies. \$2. . . . . Longmans, Green & Co.  
Boutmy, E. The English Constitution. \$1.75. . . . . Macmillan & Co.  
Bréhat, A. de. Bras d'Acier. 50c. . . . . Cassell Pub. Co.  
Briggs, C. A. The Authority of Holy Scripture. 50c. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Carpenter, F. E. Preparation for Worship. 60c. . . . . Longmans, Green & Co.  
Chase, H. S. Questions of the Day. . . . . Twentieth Century Pub. Co.  
Combe, T. A Question of Love. \$1. . . . . Boston: Roberts Bros.  
Connery, T. B. In the Mafia's Clutches. 50c. . . . . Minerva Pub. Co.  
Crosby, M. A Violin Obligato, and Other Stories. \$1. . . . . Boston: Roberts Bros.  
Flake, A. K. Beyond the Bourn. \$1. . . . . Fords, Howard & Hulbert.  
Flake, J. The American Revolution. 2 vols. \$4. . . . . Houghton, Mifflin & Co.  
Ford, M. H. Which Wins? 50c. . . . . Boston: Lee & Shepard.  
Furness, G. L. A Box of Monkeys. . . . . Harper & Bros.  
Grant, J. B. Our Common Birds. \$1.50. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Green, J. M. The Spanish Conspiracy. \$2. . . . . Cincinnati: R. Clarke & Co.  
Grey, M. In the Heart of the Storm. 50c. . . . . D. Appleton & Co.  
Griswold, W. M. Descriptive List of International Novels. 50c. . . . . Cambridge, Mass.  
Griswold, W. M. Descriptive List of Novels and Tales dealing with American City Life. . . . . Cambridge, Mass.  
Gudrin, M. de. Journal of. Ed. by G. S. Trebutien. \$1.25. . . . . Dodd, Mead & Co.  
Hancock, A. U. The Genius of Galilee. 50c. . . . . Chicago: C. H. Kerr & Co.  
Harris, J. C. Balaam and His Master. \$1.25. . . . . Houghton, Mifflin & Co.  
Harrison, B. The Anglomaniacs. 50c. . . . . Cassell Pub. Co.  
History of Language. By H. A. Strong and others. \$3.50. . . . . Longmans, Green & Co.  
Howells, W. D. Criticism and Fiction. \$1. . . . . Harper & Bros.  
Huntington, W. R. The Peace of the Church. \$1.25. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Hutchinson, H. G. Famous Golf Links. \$2. . . . . Longmans, Green & Co.  
Jacobs, J. Essays and Reviews. \$1.25. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Jennings, L. J. The Philadelphian. 50c. . . . . Harper & Bros.  
Jerome, J. K. Diary of a Pilgrimage. \$1.25. . . . . H. Holt & Co.  
Jókai, M. There is no Devil. \$1. . . . . Cassell Pub. Co.  
Keep, R. P. Essential Uses of the Moods. 50c. . . . . Ginn & Co.  
King, C. By Land and Sea. . . . . Phila.: L. R. Hamersly & Co.  
Lapsus Calami. By J. K. S. . . . . Cambridge, Eng.: Macmillan & Bowes.  
Lee, F. W. A Shred of Lace. 50c. . . . . St. Paul, Minn.: Price-McGill Pub. Co.  
Letourneau, C. The Evolution of Marriage. \$1.25. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Liddon, H. P. Maxims and Gleanings. Ed. by C. M. S. 60c. . . . . Longmans, Green & Co.  
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Parkhurst, C. H. First Steps Toward Church Unity. 50c. . . . . F. H. Revell Co.  
Perry, W. S. History of the Constitution of the American Church. \$1.50. . . . . T. Whittaker.  
Phelps, E. S. Fourteen to One. \$1.25. . . . . Houghton, Mifflin & Co.  
Redgrave, G. R. David Cox and Peter de Wint. \$1.25. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Reeve, C. H. The Prison Question. . . . . Chicago: Knight & Leonard Co.  
Robinson, W. S. First History of Rome. 80c. . . . . Longmans, Green & Co.  
Saintsbury, G. Essays on French Novelists. \$2. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
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Serrano, M. J. The Friend of Death. 50c. . . . . Cassell Pub. Co.  
Sladen, D. B. Younger American Poets. \$2. . . . . Cassell Pub. Co.  
Smith, F. H. Colonel Carter of Cartersville. \$1.25. . . . . Houghton, Mifflin & Co.  
Stockton, F. R. The Rudder Grangers Abroad. \$1.25. . . . . Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Thayer, O. Otto the Knight. \$1.25. . . . . Houghton, Mifflin & Co.  
Thomas, A. The Roll of Honor. 50c. . . . . U. S. Book Co.  
Webb, S., and Cox, H. The Eight-Hours Day. 50c. . . . . A. Lovell & Co.  
Winter, W. Gray Days and Gold. 75c. . . . . Macmillan & Co.



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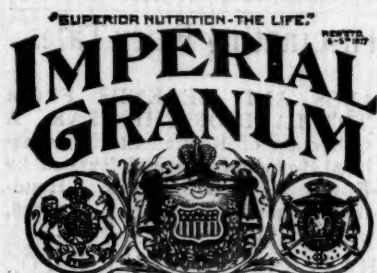
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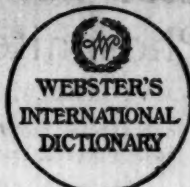
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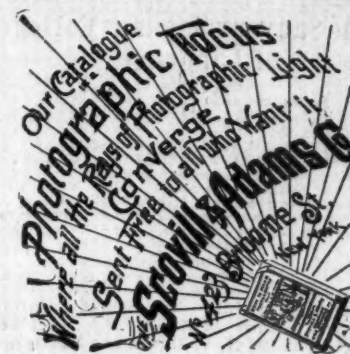


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